

**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 20, 2019**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on March 20, 2019, at 1:32 p.m. at 6121 N IH 35, Austin, Texas.

Board Members present:

José Dodier, Jr., Chairman  
Barry Mahler, Vice Chairman  
Scott Buckles, Member  
David Basinger, Member  
Tina Y. Buford, Member  
Carl Ray Polk, Jr., Member

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director  
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor  
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist  
Jack Foote, Program Specialist  
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist  
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist  
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist  
Tony Franklin, Program Specialist  
Joel Clark, Program Specialist  
Trey Watson, Program Specialist  
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist  
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist  
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Operations and Fiscal Officer  
John Foster, Policy Advisor and Intergovernmental Affairs  
T. J. Helton, Program Administrator  
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator  
Jana Lloyd, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Wesley Gibson, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Liza Parker, Policy Analyst and Project Manager  
Mel Davis, Policy Advisor and Special Projects Coordinator  
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist  
Molly Christensen, Public Affairs Specialist  
Lee Munz, Program Administrator and Regional Office Coordinator  
Steve Bednarz, Program Administrator and Engineer  
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist  
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist  
Karen Preece, Accountant

General Counsel:

Assistant Attorney General Veena Mohan, Office of the Attorney General

Others Present:

Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board  
James Grimm., Texas Poultry Federation  
Bob Turner, Texas Poultry Federation  
Darren Turley, Texas Association of Dairymen  
Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Lori Hamilton, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Kristy Oates, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Phillip Wright, Pecan Bayou SWCD #553  
Cody York, Pecan Bayou SWCD #553  
Cy Tongate, Pecan Bayou SWCD #553  
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Fisher Reynolds, Office of the Governor  
Joe Freeman, Llano County SWCD #233

**AGENDA ITEM 1:** Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Dodier called the meeting to order and verified that there was a quorum present. All members present with exception of Marty H. Graham.

**AGENDA ITEM 2:** Excuse Any Absent Board Members

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to accept absence of Mr. Graham. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 3:** Water Supply Enhancement Program Presentation

Dr. Rainwater addressed the Board. Dr. Rainwater showed a power point presentation. Discussion ensued.

**AGENDA ITEM 4:** Opportunity for Public Comment

Chairman Dodier read General Counsel's public comment script and acknowledged guests.

**AGENDA ITEM 5:** Comments from Federal, State and Local Governmental Entities

Mr. Turner, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Turner reviewed the handout of a partial list of House Bills and Senate Bills and commented on Conservation Program Grants.

Mr. Grimm, Texas Poultry Federation, acknowledged the Board, and thanked them for their partnership.

Mr. Turley, Texas Association of Dairymen, acknowledged the Board, and thanked them for their support of the dairy farmer industry.

Mr. Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Niemann commented on the RESTORE meetings, Total Maximum Daily Loads Program, Nonpoint Source Program, Annual Report, the 2016 Integrated Report, Water Quality Standards, and introduced their new Division Director Lori Hamilton.

**AGENDA ITEM 6:** Overview and Update on the Programs and Activities of the United State Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service

Ms. Oates, Natural Resources Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Ms. Oates reviewed the handout, commented on the Veteran Farmer Program, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, the Conservation Initiative Grants, a software update, proficiency exams, the Emergency

Watershed Program, Flood Plain easements, employment vacancies, Conservation Practice Standards, and Memorandum of Understandings. Ms. Oates stated that Beverly Moses is moving to Washington D.C. to work for the Chief.

Chairman Dodier commented that we would send a note to Beverly.

**AGENDA ITEM 7:** Overview and Update on the Programs and Activities of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Ms. Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Ms. Daniel commented on the Soil Health Program, the Washington D.C. trip, the Carrizo Cane Eradication Program, the Watershed Program, the Farm Bill, and the upcoming Legislative Day at the state capital.

**AGENDA ITEM 8:** Minutes from January 16-17, 2019 State Board Meetings

Ms. Preece previously emailed a copy of the minutes to Board Members for their review.

Chairman Dodier called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 16-17, 2019 Board Meetings.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 9:** Soil and Water Conservation District Director Appointments, including:  
Lucas Spinhirne, Deb Manahan, Walton Carter

Ms. Preece presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications.

Mr. Basinger moved for the approval of the following appointments as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lucas Spinhirne, Oldham County #153, Subdivision 4, Replace Bob Wood  
Deb Manahan, Freestone County #424, Subdivision 4, Replace Marles Pace  
Walton Carter, Palo Pinto #518, Subdivision 2, Replace Bobby Decker

**AGENDA ITEM 10:** Fiscal Report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of Fiscal Year 2019

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 11:** Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report

Mr. Isom commented on the Washington D.C. trip with Mr. Dan Seibert of the National Watershed Coalition, the Farm Bill, \$50 million for the Watershed Program to continue, and match-funding.

Ms. Parker reviewed the handout.

Mr. Isom commented on funding of the Water Supply Enhancement Program and the Carrizo Cane Eradication Program.

**AGENDA ITEM 12:** Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 13:** Flood Control Dam Rehabilitation Projects for Fiscal Year 2019

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Polk, Jr. moved for the approval of the projects as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 14:** Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 15:** Requests for Additional Cost-Share Incentive Funding for Water Quality Management Plans in Accordance with Title 31 Texas Administrative Code, Section 523.6(f)(4), Concerning Criteria for Waivers

Mr. Munz stated that there are no requests at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 16:** Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Buckles moved for the approval of the requests as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 17:** Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 18:** Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Ms. Lloyd reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 19:** Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 20:** Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 21:** Conservation Initiatives Status Report

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 22:** National Association of Conservation Districts Grant Status Report

Mr. Gibson acknowledged Mr. Polk, Jr.'s reappointment to the State Board.

Mr. Gibson reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 23:** Communication Strategy Status Report

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 24:** Planning of 2019 Annual State Meeting of District Directors

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 25:** Status Report on Letter to the Office of the Attorney General Regarding Eligibility Requirements for Board Members' Participation in Agency Programs

Ms. Mohan reviewed the agenda item and stated that we should expect an opinion in July 2019.

**AGENDA ITEM 26:** Court of Criminal Appeals Ruling on Open Meetings Act

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 27:** Conservation Outreach: Rural and Urban Outreach

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 28:** Prescribed Burn Board Status Report

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 29:** Public Information and Education Status Report

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

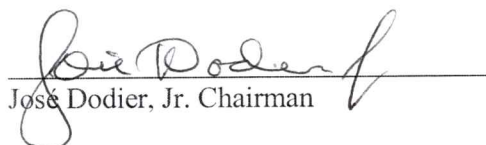
**AGENDA ITEM 30:** Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information. Ms. Heitman congratulated Mr. Polk, Jr. on his reappointment to the State Board. Ms. Heitman commented on the Governor's challenge on human sex trafficking, the Get Fit Program, Don Brandenberger's story to be published in the Employees Retirement System May issue newsletter, and thanked Ms. Christensen for her help with this. Ms. Heitman read a thank you note from Ms. Buford for her mother's funeral arrangement.

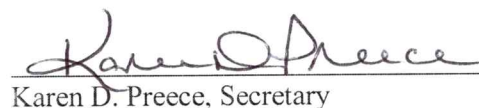
**AGENDA ITEM 31:** Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

Mr. Isom stated that there would be a Board Meeting on May 16, 2019 with no Work Session.

Mr. Buckles moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 p.m. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

  
Jose Dodier, Jr. Chairman

May 16, 2019  
Date

  
Karen D. Preece, Secretary

May 16, 2019  
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on March 20, 2019.

  
Rex Isom, Executive Director

May 16, 2019  
Date